European **N**etwork of **I**nformation **C**entres for the **P**erforming **A**rts

Réseau Européen des Centres d'Information sur le Spectacle Vivant

Report ENICPA meeting 8th of November 2001, City Hall, Galway, Ireland

Attending: Luciano Brogi and Alessandro Marconi (IALS, Italy), Theresa Beattie (The Place, UK), Minna Luukko (Finnish Dance Information Centre, Finland), Kira Ravinskaya and Siân Cunningham (The Arts Council, Ireland), Louise Seibaek (Danish Dance Information Center, Ireland), Jane Daly and Louglin Deegan (Theatre Shop, Ireland), Riitta Seppálá (Finnish Theatre Information Centre, Finland), Thomas Engel (iTi, Germany), Bianca de Waal (Theater Instituut Nederland, The Netherlands)

1. Presentation database

The Theatre Shop from Ireland presented their database in progress, The Irish Playography. This relational database will contain all Irish plays produced professionally since 1904. The database will be on-line at the end of 2002 with productions back to 1975 and a few years later (in steps) back to 1904. A very impressive database with lots of information about authors, plays, companies and even a section that gives information about how to get a copy of a certain play.
Also it was mentioned that there is a new database project in Finland. The whole repertory of Finnish theatre from 1872. It will be on-line next year.
The Roberto Cimetta Fund based in Belgium is doing research on a database for Mediterranean artists an information centres.
It was decided that every ENICPA meeting should have presentations of databases or information projects from members or other interested institutions.

2. What happened since Lille April 2001?

ENICPA found itself not funded and without a co-ordinator. During the Lille meeting it was decided that ENICPA would remain a registered organisation with a board. The new board was voted by e-mail: Luciano Brogi from IALS, Italy as president, Cécile Hamon, Centre National du Théâtre, France as treasurer, and Bianca de Waal, Theater Instituut Nederland, The Netherlands as secretary.
The new and old board have been working together to fulfil the necessary administrative duties from last and present year to keep ENICPA as a non-profit organisation under Belgian Law. Now the re-organising of the administrative and legal basis has been finished. We have a final report. The bank account is up to now administered by Vlaams Theater Instituut.
Now finally the financial overview of 2000 is made by Cécile Hamon in co-operation with Nikol Wellens from Vlaams Theater Instituut. All members will receive a copy of the overview as soon as possible.
IALS made the generous offer to host the website for free website hosting and technical support. A big gesture because ENICPA exists now only with membership fees. IALS did this offer out of a consciousness of the importance of the network and hopes this effort shall help ENICPA to be again an involved members network.

3. Website

Since IALS took over the hosting of the site there were some minor problems. During the meeting a few more were expressed so they can be solved. To know what problems there are, everybody should test the database again. If you have some problems mail them to IALS (there is a link in the update-area).
There are still some problems with updating data or putting any data in at all. Most has to do with the extra work everybody has to put in beside their normal day work. Also the question was raised if we should keep the database, because the above problem has existed for a long time. Maybe with an easier update system we get our quality information database back.
It was mentioned that some institutes really use the database for searching or to use it as their own database, since they don't have one of their own.
A suggestion was made to make the update easier. The suggestion was to make an e-mail template from the entries. The member could then e-mail the information to the entries for a check. They can put changes in this template. The template will be send back to the member. The member checks if all information is correct and

loads it up to the ENICPA database. This template could also be used for the members own daily work. Alessandro Marconi, the programmer from IALS attending the meeting stated it could be done. He is studying the better way to obtain this result. Also an interface for uploading our own datas from local databases directly to the ENICPA database will be created as well as the possibility to download all entries for own local use (members only).

Because the site is hosted now by one of the members we've got more freedom in changements and improvements of the site. Important is to think about technical solutions for passing information between the members, which will make it possible to grow as a network. So a big request to all members to think about and communicate changes, improvements and new items for the website.

Already there is a chat room working on the members-area of the website, this chat room can be used for regular discussions on a certain topic.

Another suggestion that was made was to make a message board, where, for example, members can tell on a regular base about their projects or can find help for these projects (exchange of knowledge and experience). An e-mail should be send to all members when there is a new issue on the message board.

The statistic programm of the site for monitoring users is really simple right now, this will be improved so we can use it for mailings and other things, like informing the members about use of the website. For now, all members will receive a summery of reactions on the site over the last year pretty soon.

A suggestion was made about the date appearing beside each entry. Mostly we don't change all entries at the same time, so the update date of a lot of entries are over a year old. This gives the impression to the user the website is not updated. The programmer of IALS is going to put a date at the beginning of the list of entries that shows the date of the last modified entry.

4. Membership and membership fees

There is a feeling of lack of commitment. Being a member means not only to pay the membership fee but also to put in a little work. Everybody knows it's really hard to integrate this work into our daily work. But a network can only excist by the individual effort we put into it.

We should look for more members, there are still a few information centres missing. This could be done by presentation and promotion of ENICPA during the IETM. Also members can let the board members know which centres are missing.

We found a possible two new members during IETM!!! The Theatre Shop, Ireland and the Danish Dance Information Center, from Denmark of course.

All members will receive an invoice pretty soon for their membership fee for 2001, because not all membership fees are payed. We need the membership fees for costs we make for banking, legal registrations, some cost that were not payed from the past and, most important, to develop projects in the near and far future.

5. Future

The next meeting will be during the IETM in Trieste, Italy from the 11th till the 14th of April 2002. We really want to make this a meeting that is worth the members while. We want to have presentations of databases, a training for the new areas on the membership site, refresh training on how to use the database and further discussion and decision making about topics that where alreay discussed in the chat room. But the board can't do this all by itself, so we strongly ask all members to come with ideas for topics, to do presentations of their database etc. ENICPA should move forward after staying still for a while and the network needs all members to contribute.

Note: There is some information in the report that came to us later then the meeting of people we met during IETM.

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